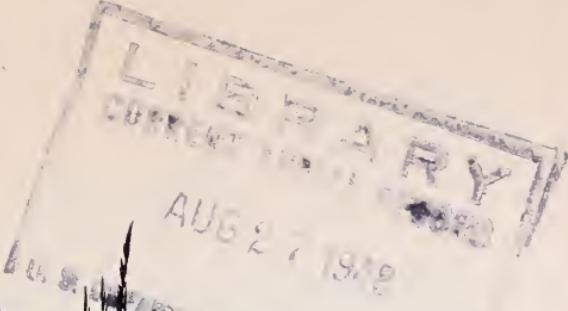


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Fig 84 Pro  
Cop 4



# Grass Roots Conservation

for

**PASTURE**  
and  
**RANGE**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
PRODUCTION and MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 1948

PA 55

Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch

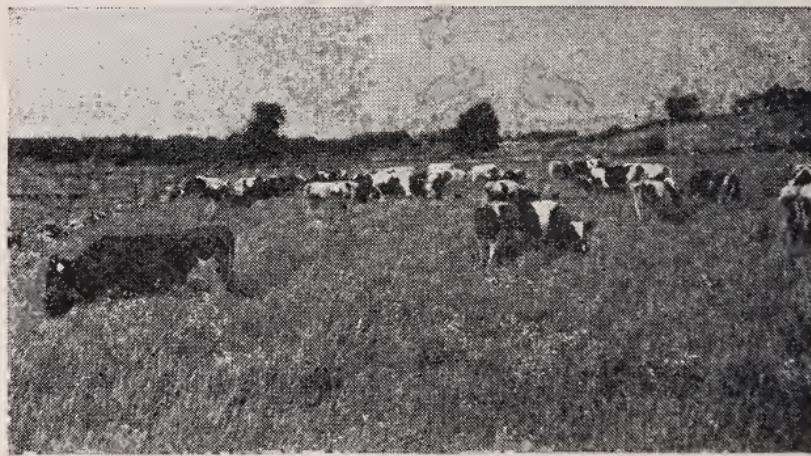
## FIRST . . .

### *The Land*



*Your pasture or range is going downhill and needs help—*

1. If gullies are ripping it up.
2. If topsoil is blowing and drifting.
3. If subsoil "pavement" shows through.
4. If litter between plants is sparse.
5. If muddy water or clouds of dust are common.



*Good range or pasture should show—*

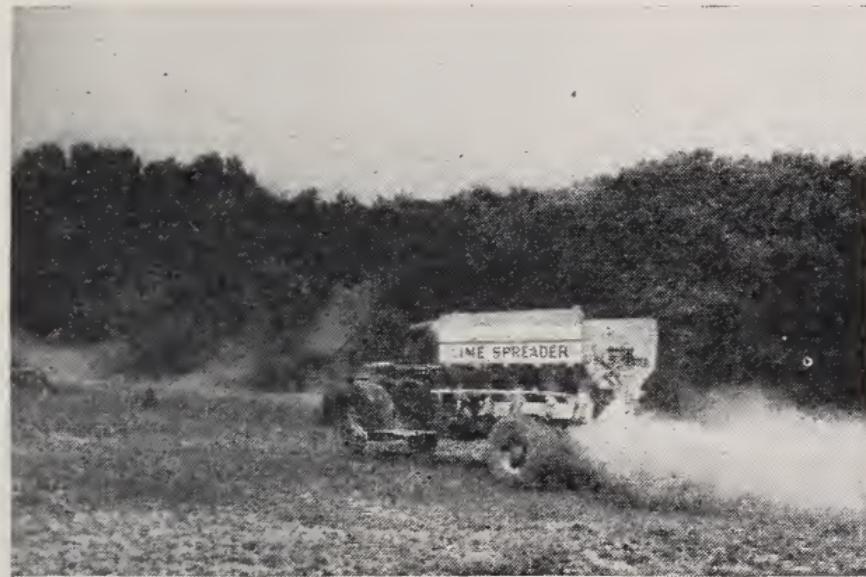
1. Abundant litter between plants.
2. Topsoil intact and unbroken.
3. Gullies (if any) healing.
4. Little or no soil drifting; no places where the topsoil is worn through.
5. Clear run-off water and no dust when the wind blows.

**NEXT . . .**

## *The Vegetation*

*Your pasture or range is getting away from you—*

1. If palatable grasses are sparse and stunted.
2. If less palatable shrubs have taken over.
3. If noxious and poisonous weeds are plentiful.
4. If there are few seedstalks of palatable grasses.



*Your pasture or range needs—*

1. Grass roots to hold the soil.
2. Blades of grass to feed the grass roots. (In arid range areas grazing off more than 50 percent of the top growth of palatable grasses starts the range soil downhill.)
3. Protection from overuse. (Don't put stock on grass too early or keep them there too long.)
4. Rest when it is overworked. (Deferred grazing helps.)
5. Reseeding of adapted grasses when necessary.

**AND THEN . . .**

## *The Livestock*



*Improvement means—*

*More and better calves—more milk and fatter cattle.*

*More, better, and heavier lambs—more wool.*

1. Stock-water developments, fences, and trails aid in promoting better distribution of livestock.
2. Mineral supplements, seedings, elimination of competitive plants and shrubs improve the range.
3. Fireguards improve and protect the forage.
4. Dams, terraces, contours, and rip-rap help to check erosion and keep land and water at home.







## *Our Heritage*

THIS is a choice land. It is a land of promise. It has come to us with its beautiful mountains, broad rich prairies, flowing rivers—but above all with an abundance of life-producing topsoil.

But we have wasted our heritage—wasted it and ruined it faster than any other people in any other time have wasted theirs. The virgin layer of 9 inches of topsoil has been reduced to 6 inches.

With population increasing more than 13 million in 8 years, we can't afford to continue wasting our soil.

The wealth—the real wealth—of the country is not in its gold, silver, coal, and oil, but in the nitrogen, phosphate, calcium, and potash in the soil which make possible the growing of vegetation—from which comes our food.

As a farmer, you are a custodian responsible for a part of that national wealth. What you do with the land you use—what the other fellow does with the land he uses—will determine to a large degree the future prosperity of this country—The United States of America.

# **BUT YOU CAN'T DO IT ALONE . . .**

## *The Agricultural Conservation Program Will Help You*

*Through the Agricultural Conservation Program, with its locally elected farmer committeemen, you can join with other farmers in—*

1. Checking the flow of millions of tons of precious topsoil that each year go into the ocean.
2. Helping to tie down with grass roots and humus the thin layer of topsoil—to keep it from blowing away.
3. Protecting the watersheds, from which comes water for people and crops.
4. Building our soil for continued abundant production to meet the needs of an increasing population.

The Agricultural Conservation Program is the Nation's means for cooperating with its farmers and stockmen to protect our rich heritage of topsoil and build it up.

There are practices to meet every major soil-conserving problem in every part of the country.

*For full information about conservation practices and payments, see your County Agricultural Conservation Program Committee. There is one in every agricultural county in the United States.*

